

HOT ISSUE

THIS WEEK - CHANGE OF FIELD WORK SITE FOR UIC PROGRAM FY14 REGIONAL APPLIED RESEARCH EFFORT (RARE): The UIC Program FY14 RARE Project, a collaborative effort between the EPA ORD and the DOE Legacy Management Office in Grand Junction, Colorado, originally planned to obtain drill core from the proposed Dewey Burdock uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) project site near Edgemont, South Dakota. The project goal is to develop a method to evaluate the potential for ISR-generated contaminants remaining in the groundwater after wellfield restoration to cross the proposed aquifer exemption boundary downgradient of the ISR wellfield. Project results will inform evaluation of the aquifer exemption boundary associated with the UIC Class III Draft Area Permit and aquifer exemption decision the Region 8 UIC Program is currently preparing for the proposed Dewey Burdock operation. Another phase of the project involves modeling work performed by DOE using USGS analytical data and bench scale test data generated from Dewey Burdock core related to the FY2010 RARE work with USGS. After the proposal was written and submitted for review, a research opportunity became available at Cameco Resources' Smith Ranch-Highland uranium ISR facility near Glenrock, Wyoming. Several drill cores are now available from a number of Smith Ranch-Highlands ISR wellfields at different stages of operation. Project work will also include a field test performed by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The change in project site will provide additional research opportunities under the RARE project because the core is already available, much of the core analyses have already been performed, the new field site is an active ISR facility with wellfields at different stages of operation and the Los Alamos National Laboratory will be part of the collaborative research effort. Because the project goal is to develop and test a methodology, the differences in the hydrogeologic conditions at the Smith Ranch-Highlands facility from those at the Dewey Burdock will not impact the success of the project. *Concurrence required by the RA/DRA.* **Contact: Douglas Minter 312-6079**